

HORNCASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1953

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

J. ALLAN POTTS, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer for Woodhall Spa and Horncastle Rural District Councils.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor, Meat Inspector and Housing, Allotments and Markets Manager.

There is a Public Health Committee which deals with all matters affecting public health.

To the Chairman and Members,
Horncastle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have the honour, as your Medical Officer of Health, to present my Annual Report for 1953.

1953 has been a year of promise rather than completion so that, as you will know, much had been undertaken during the year there is comparatively little to show for it in the tables of statistics. For example the figure of 12 council houses completed during the year gives no clue to the next batch of 40 which were, at the year's end, going up fast and destined almost to clear the Council's housing list.

In such matters of births and deaths, there has been a slight improvement over last year, with 5 more live births and a decrease of deaths under 65 years of age. The total number of deaths has increased and will increase, inevitably as the population ages and so enters the group 75+ where deaths must be expected, but the reduction in premature deaths is a cause of real satisfaction.

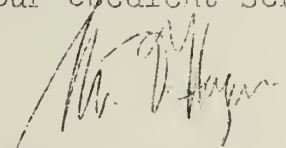
The causes of the premature deaths which did occur show a serious preponderance of psycho-somatic diseases, i.e., ones in which the mind has become disordered so that the individual reacts to outside stresses by worry. That worry is the cause of suicide is beyond doubt, but it is only gradually being accepted that it plays a big part in bringing about the deaths from angina, cerebral haemorrhage, etc.

Infectious diseases have not caused any alarm although during the year there were a few cases of whooping cough and the last quarter showed the expected sharp epidemic of measles. There were no fatalities, but a number of children showed sequelae and once again remind us that measles is no trivial disease and that no child under two years should be allowed to suffer the disease in its unmodified state.

Immunisation against whooping cough has been started under the aegis of the County Council but not enough time has passed to show the effect.

Much of the work of 1953 will bear its fruit in 1954, and I expect then to render a more colourful report than the present one which is, like the current budget, a 'carry-on' one.

I am, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mr. D. H. ...', is written over the typed name.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICAL SECTION

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT: 1,421 acres

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION:
3,862

DENSITY OF POPULATION: 2.72 per acre

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 1,255

SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE: £70.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £18, 420

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>		<u>1953</u>
Legitimate	Male	28
	Female	13
Total		41
Illegitimate	Male	3
	Female	1
Total		4
Total Live Births		45
Crude live birth rate (per thousand estimated population)		11.66
Comparability Factor for Horncastle		1.02
Therefore standardized live birth rate per thousand estimated population		11.83
Birth rate England and Wales per thousand estimated population		15.5

Still-births

One still-birth was recorded in 1953.

Standardized total birth
rate, Horncastle 12.2

Total birth rate, England
and Wales 15.85

DEATHS

	<u>1953</u>
Male	31
Female	30
<hr/>	
Total	<u>61</u>

Crude death rate per
thousand estimated
population (Horncastle) 15.80

Standardized death
rate per thousand
population (estimated) 12.80

Death rate England
and Wales per thousand
estimated population 11.40

This increase is not unexpected, as will be seen from the table below, giving ages at death and the percentages of the total deaths occurring in each age group and the new table of the percentage of those dying during the year who had passed the ages shown.

Age at Death years	Number of 1952	deaths 1953	%age of Total Deaths - 1953	%age of those dying who had pass- ed this age group	
				1952	1953
Under 1	3	2	3.3		
1 - 4	1	0	0		
5 - 9	0	0	0		
10 - 14	0	0	0		
15 - 24	0	1	1.6		
25 - 34	0	0	0		
35 - 44	2	2	3.3	92.8	95.0
45 - 54	3	2	3.3	89.2	91.7
55 - 64	4	6	9.8	83.8	88.4
65 - 74	22	15	24.6	76.5	78.6
75 & over	20	36	54.0	32.5	54.0



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Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list.

<u>Short List No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	1	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	12
18.	Coronary disease angina	6	1	7
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	6	5	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	0	2	2
22.	Influenza	1	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis	1	0	1
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	5
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	1	0	1
35.	Suicide	4	0	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS		31	30	61

Causes of Death at ages below 65 years

Cancer	0
Diseases of Heart)
Cerebral Haemorrhage) 9
and Thrombosis)
Suicide	2
Nephritis	1
Pneumonia	1
Congenital Heart defect	1

Maternal Mortality

N I L

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

Total Deaths of Infants, 1953.	2
Death Rate per thousand births	44.4

Infectious Diseases

The following notifications were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever or Scarletina	2
Whooping Cough	11
Measles	166
Tuberculosis	1

No death resulted in any of these cases.

Preventative Measures - Whooping Cough

During the year the County Council scheme for the immunization of young children against Whooping Cough came into operation.

It is too early yet to see results, but the number of notifications received of this disease have perhaps been lower than might have been expected.

Up to the end of December, 15 children under 5 years of age had been immunized under the scheme.

Diphtheria

The combined effort of the Ministry of Health, County Council and General Practitioner continue unabated, for although there has been no case of the disease in Horncastle since 1943, the germs remain with us and freedom from disease depends entirely upon the immunity of the individuals who form the community.

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following information regarding the numbers of children immunized:-

Children immunized at (years)	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
0 - 5	43	61	15	54	32	25
5 - 15	1	1	10	2	6	2
Booster doses all ages	7	10	49	22	32	30

Smallpox

At the moment of writing Smallpox is reported as having been imported into the Country by an aircraft passenger.

The following figures for vaccinations have been given by the County Medical Officer of Health

Persons Vaccinated at ages	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
0 - 1 years	8	4	8	12	15
1 - 4 "	3	1	16	3	1
5 - 14 "	2	-	2	2	2
15 & over	1	-	6	4	2
Revaccinations	-	-	1	4	3
Births during the year	53	42	52	40	45
Numbers vaccinated as percentage of births	26%	11.9%	63.5%	62.5%	44.4%

Food-Poisoning

Horncastle could be the centre for a widespread outbreak of this disease, for its food-trades supply many visitors in transit to the coast resorts. The organisms of food-poisoning are ubiquitous and as a working basis, it is fair to assume, as the operating surgeon does, that everything that he does not knew to be sterile, is dangerous. This applied to the food trade, implies that most raw foods are suspicious and unless kept chilled in an efficient refrigerator until cooked and served may become dangerous.

During the year the Ministry of Food produced an excellent little booklet entitled "Clean Catering", priced 2/6d which should be read by all engaged in food preparation, especially upon a canteen or communal scale. It covers the whole field of hygienic catering in a readable form, and any further advice would willingly be given by the Sanitary Inspector or by myself.

Despite the quite considerable amount of commercial and canteen food preparation work carried out in the town, it is gratifying that there have been no outbreaks of food-poisoning for the fifth successive year.

Tuberculosis

Only one case was notified during the year and there were no deaths. I am not, however, satisfied that every tuberculosis case is notified to me as such and it is surprising to find that notifications have been received which are incorrect in detail or have been delayed some months after the admission of the case to Hospital.

It should be remembered that it is not primarily the duty of the hospital consultant to notify the case, but the General Practitioner. It is far better that a suspect case be notified, at once so that the routine work of seeking the source of infection can begin, without waiting for final diagnosis and, perhaps, a crop of further collateral cases.

There has been a marked decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis cases amongst cattle sent to the local abattoir in the last two years and it may be that this indicates an improved state of health of the bovine population. Certainly the number of milk samples taken found to contain tubercle bacilli is small but the total number of milk samples taken for this purpose in the Rural District was only 91. This number is 50% higher than the previous year and

represents a sound precaution, but however many samples are taken the final eradication of milk as a source of human tuberculosis must depend upon its elimination from cattle and protection of the milk from subsequent human contamination, whilst pasteurization remains the immediate necessity.

In regard to the environmental care of tuberculosis outside hospital, in such matters as housing etc., the work of the department is much hampered by the lack of liason between hospitals and Medical Officers' of Health. One feels more could be done to help if those having direct responsibility for treatment would give us more information regarding cases and contacts, expected dates of completion or inpatient treatment etc.

FOOD

Meat

The report of the Sanitary Inspector gives details of the examinations of all the animals killed in Horncastle. Whilst these show a big improvement over earlier years, there is no room yet for complacency or any let-up in the policy of 100% inspection.

On the whole the system of centralized slaughter and distribution has worked well during the years of difficulty. Now at this time the dropping of controls on the meat trade poses new problems in ensuring the fitness of supply. In an Urban district, where a market exists, there should be available a public abattoir, capable of handling all local needs, and, if the towns prosperity is to be considered, room for expansion to handle export trade to other parts of the Country for it is clearly undesirable to transport live and potentially infectious animals to other parts of the country for slaughter. The needs of Civil Defence, too, dictate that slaughtering be neither too concentrated nor too dispersed.

Meat Products

There are six small-scale premises making meat-products. Good liason exists between the Department and the owners and in spite of a general lack of modern buildings satisfactory standards of hygiene are maintained.

Ice-Cream

There is a tendency for a small scale manufacturer to abandon this side of the business in favour of retailing pre-packed ice-cream. In general, this is in the Public Interest, since it cannot be economic to equip multiple small plants to compete with the major producers, and, whilst it is possible to comply with the ice-cream Heat Treatment regulations with very simple equipment there is a much greater risk of a bad sample being produced, and inspection must be carried out at frequent intervals.

Milk

Enough pasteurizing facilities are available to allow the supply of heat-treated milk to the whole population thus eliminating at a stroke all risk of milk borne diseases. That public opinion does not demand heat-treated milk is a reflection on our propaganda and teaching.

Clean Food Policy

Total number of food premises in the town is 47

These comprise :-	Butchers	12
	Bakers and Pastrycook	7
	Grocers	9
	Fish mongers	3
	Fried Fish shops	4
	Dairies	3
	Greengrocers, etc.	5
	Cafes	5
	Sweets, etc.	8

The explanation of more than 47 trades is because some bakers are also retail grocers.

Premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture or preparation of:

Meat products	6
Ice-cream	2

Premises registered as dairies under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949: 3

The Sanitary Inspector reports that 6 inspections were carried out in respect of the foregoing. This figure, however, is rather an underestimation of the work done, since in a compact district, the Sanitary Inspector and myself frequently meet various producers informally and matters of common interest are discussed, without any question of recording the occasion as an inspection.

Direct education of the public lags somewhat behind, in consequence of the multiplicity of duties of the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer. Insofar as the children are concerned some indirect education is achieved by the School Meals service whilst Domestic Science teachers are increasingly emphasizing hygiene in their normal teaching.

Condemned food, apart from meat in the possession of the Ministry of Food, at the slaughter-house is normally disposed of by incineration at the Council's tip in Hemingby Lane. It is usual for voluntary surrender to be made and in practice there is a tendency to over-cautiousness on the part of shopkeepers who refer to the Department foods which, upon examination, prove to be sound. This practice is encouraged since it encourages good relations with the trade and it is rarely, if at all, necessary to examine an entire stock.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

<u>Total No. of New Houses erected during the year</u>	18
(I) By the Local Authority	12
(II) By other Local Authorities	1 (Police)
(III) By other Bodies or Persons	5

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year

(1)(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	48
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	71
(2)(a) Number of dwellings-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	3
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	5
(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	41

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers	20
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice :-

(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
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(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
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(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	Nil
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(3) Number of houses subject to undertakings	4
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(d) Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 :-

(1) Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
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(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil
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Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a) (i) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of year	1
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(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	1
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(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	7
------------------------------------------	---

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
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(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	19
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

Housing Act, 1949

(a) Number of applications for grants received	1
(b) Number of grants made	Nil
(c) Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	Nil

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

Number of Site Licences	Nil
Number of Individual Licences	5
Number inspected during the year - Sites	3
- Dwellings	2
Number of Contraventions remedied	1

Food Premises

Bakehouses

Number in district	7
Number of inspections	8
Number of contraventions	Nil
Number of defects remedied	1

Control of Milk Supply

Number of distributors on register	4
Number of dairies on register	1
Number of inspections of dairies	6
Contraventions remedied	Nil
Number of milk samples taken - Satisfactory	2
- Unsatisfactory	Nil

Ice Cream and Meat Products

Number of manufacturers - (a) ice cream	2
(b) meat products	6
Number of premises registered for sale of ice cream	17
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2
Number of samples of Ice Cream taken :-	
Grade I - 18; Grade II - 3; Grade III - 9;	
Grade IV - 1;	

Slaughter-Houses

Number on register	1
Number of inspections	231
Contraventions of bye-laws	Nil
Defects remedied	3

Other Food Premises

Number of inspections	38
Number of contraventions found	3
Number of contraventions remedied	3

Unsound Food

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	691	422	327	3133	1087
Number Inspected	691	422	327	3133	1087
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	7	8	14	65	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	170	106	11	75	42
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tb...	25.61	26.05	7.95	4.15	6.53
Tuberculosis only Whole Carcasses condemned Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	2 88	4 125	- 2	- -	7 125
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.02	30.07	0.61	-	12.14

Other Condemned Foods

FOOD	HOME PRODUCED	IMPORTED
Meats including bacon and cooked meats	366 lbs	31 lbs
Tinned meats and fish	31 "	138 "
Tinned Milk	6 "	7 "
Tinned Vegetables	11 "	4 "
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	-	2 "
Cheese	-	27 "
Tinned Fruit	157 "	60 "
Total	531	238

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGEClosets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district Nil
 Number of houses with pail closets in district 46
 Number of pail closets repaired Nil
 Number of water closets substituted for dry receptacles Nil
 Number of houses with water closets in district 1209
 Number of water closets repaired 19

Drains

Drains examined, tested, exposed etc. 173
 Drains unstopped, repaired etc. 16
 Waste pipes, disconnected, repaired etc. 5
 Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired 2

Sewers

New lengths of sewer laid 81

Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.

Alterations to sewage disposal works -
 Part irrigation land redrained
 Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works
 or complaints as to smells -

Cesspools

Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	Nil
Cesspools abolished	Nil

General

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district	1
Number of inspections	2
Contraventions of byelaws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Knackers Yards

Number licenced	Nil
Number of inspections	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	11
Contraventions remedied	2

Water Supply

Wells:(New sunk	Nil
(Closed as polluted	Nil

(Area Supplied - All except Scrivelsby Hill,	
Public(part Marcham Road, Langton	
Supply(Road, Waterside	
(Percentage of houses internal supply	n/k
(Communal Supply	n/k

Number of samples obtained for analysis:	
(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from public supply	86

Any insufficiency and where:	Some shortage during long dry spells at high points of Spilsby Road and Lincoln Road
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Disinfection, etc.

Rooms disinfected:	
(a) ordinary infectious diseases	4
(b) Tuberculosis	Nil
Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
Number of premises disinfested	1

House Refuse

Number of houses using dustbins	1255
Is refuse removed by house-holder or by public scavenger?	LA
How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	7-9 days
Number of complaints of non-removal	8
Method of final removal	Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	yes

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year:-	
(1) abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	39
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued	Nil
Statutory notice not issued	Nil

Details of nuisances abated

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	1	-
Dampness	7	-
Accumulation of refuse.. .. .	5	-
Yards repaved or repaired	1	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	1	-
Fowls, pigs and other animals	13	-
Other nuisances	11	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed 2 part time

Number of premises treated:-

(a) dwelling-houses 13

(b) other premises 16

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats
in the district?

No

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to
health (including inspections made by Sanitary
Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			M/c line No. (6)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	7	9	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	18	1	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	2	43	-	-	3
TOTAL	50	70	1	-	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Part- iculars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowd- ing	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
San. Conv. (a) insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separ- ate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offen- ses against the Act (not inclu- ding offen- ses relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	1	-

